AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) An information exchange method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a content of interest rendered by media using first and second terminal devices for information exchange connected to a computer network;

displaying a video image regarding the content on the first and second terminal devices;

sending ~~an~~ identification information to identify the displayed video image and selected area ~~an object~~ information ~~including information relevant to~~which indicates areas selected ~~position or time of an object indicated from~~ on the displayed video image from the first and second terminal devices to a server device connected to the computer network, respectively, across the computer network;

allowing communication messages between the first terminal and the second terminal by the server device, based on the received identification information and an overlap between the areas which are indicated in the selected area ~~object~~ information ~~by the server device; and~~

~~displaying the messages together with the video image on the first and second terminal devices.~~

2.   (Currently Amended) The information exchange method as recited in claim 1 wherein:

the first terminal device displays the video image regarding the content of interest rendered by media and sends first information to the server device, the first

information including first identification information to identify the displayed video image on the first terminal device, and first ~~object~~ selected area information to define <u>an area which is</u> <u>selected by a user of the first terminal device</u> ~~a part or all of an object indicated from~~ <u>on</u> the displayed video image on the first terminal device;

the second terminal device displays the video image regarding the content of interest rendered by media and sends second information to the server device, the second information including second identification information to identify the displayed video image on the second terminal device, and second ~~object~~ selected area information to define ~~a part~~ ~~or all of an object indicated from~~ <u>an area which is selected by a user of the second terminal</u> <u>device on</u> the displayed video image on the second terminal device;

the server device makes up a group of the first and second terminal devices, according to a grouping process using <u>by judging an overlap between areas defined in</u> the first and second <u>selected area</u> information sent from the first and second terminal devices;

the first terminal device sends a first message to the server device;

the server device sends the first message to one or more terminal devices belonging to the group including the second terminal device; and

the second terminal device receives and outputs the message.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method as recited in claim 2 wherein:

the grouping process comprises one of or a combination of a plurality of the following:

grouping terminal devices for information exchange for which matching to a certain extent occurs regarding the first and second information received therefrom;

grouping terminal devices for information exchange for which matching to a certain extent occurs regarding the first and second identification information and the first and second object information, received therefrom;

grouping terminal devices for information exchange by limiting the number of terminal devices to form a group to a given number;

grouping terminal devices for information exchange for which matching occurs in one of or a plurality of items of information designating appointed identifiers of terminal devices for information exchange, geographical area, interests, content titles, and community, respectively.

4.   (Currently Amended) An information exchange method, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a~contents of interest rendered by media using a first terminal device and a second terminal device for information exchange connected to a computer network;

displaying a~video images regarding the contents on the first terminal device and on the second terminal device;

sending a~identification information to identify the displayed video image on the first terminal device, an~a first selected area object~information including information~ which indicates areas selected relevant to position or time of an object indicated from on the displayed video image on the first terminal device, and a message from the first terminal device to a server device for information exchange, across a computer network;

sending identification information to identify the displayed video image on the second terminal device, a second selected area information which indicates areas selected on the displayed video image on the second terminal device, and a message from the second terminal device to a server device for information exchange, across a computer network;

making up a group of two or more terminal devices including at least the first terminal device and a~ the second terminal device, based on an overlap between areas which are indicated by the first and second selected area information, which obtains a content of interest rendered by media and displays a video image regarding the content, by the server device;

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sending the identification information, the selected area ~~object~~ information and ~~the~~ messages which are sent from the first terminal devices to the server device, to the second terminal device belonging to the group across the computer network by the server device;

receiving the identification and selected area ~~object~~ information and the message from the server device by the second terminal device; and

displaying the messages ~~together with the video image~~ on the second terminal device based on the received identification and ~~object~~ selected area information and the messages.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method as recited in claim 4 wherein:

said server device makes up a group of terminal devices for information exchange having a group identifier registered beforehand.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method as recited in claim 4 wherein:

the server device makes up a group of terminal devices for information exchange in such a way in which:

the server device makes a list of one or more groups that have been made up and related group information and sends the group list to the first terminal device;

the first terminal device receives and outputs the group list, selects the group information for one group from the group list, then sends the selected group information to the server device across the computer network; and;

the server device sets the first terminal device to join the group appointed by the selected group information.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method as recited in claim 6 wherein:

the group information includes the identification information and the object information.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method as recited in claim 4 wherein:

said message comprises one of or a combination of a plurality of the following items: character strings of text and keywords, audio information, video information, advertising information, time information, thumbnail images, and pointer information.

9-11. (Canceled)

12.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method according to claim 1, wherein the server device allows communication of messages between the first terminal device and the second terminal device based on consistency between the identification and the object information from the first terminal device and the identification and the object information from the second terminal device.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method according to claim 12, wherein the communication messages between the first terminal device and the second terminal device includes chat using the computer network.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method according to claim 12, wherein the displayed video image regarding the content is a television video image.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The information exchange method according to claim 1, wherein the object information includes area information indicated from the displayed video image by using a pointing device.